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DOCKET NO: M00627/70018-LMG

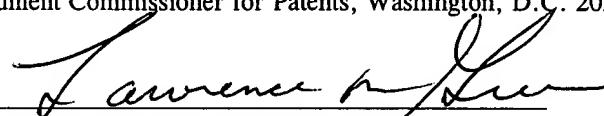
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Marc Hamel et al.
Serial No: 09/865,404
Confirmation No: 4280
Filed: May 25, 2001
For: AUTOMATED PIPETTING SYSTEM
Examiner: Brian Gordon
Art Unit: 1743

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TC 1700

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Lawrence M. Green, Reg. No. 29,384

BOX Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please rewrite claims 2, 3 4, 9, 10, 11 and 12 as follows:

A)
2. [Amended] The liquid dispenser as recited in claim 39 further comprising manually operable apparatus attached to the dispensing head for retaining the dispensing head within the housing.

3. [Amended] The liquid dispenser as recited in claim 2, wherein the apparatus for retaining the dispensing head comprises:

a plurality of threaded shafts mounted to the dispensing head;

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